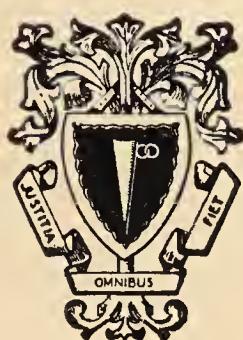


BRARY



Borough of Dunstable.

Report

ON THE

Health of Dunstable for the year 1947

BY

H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Together with the Report of

A. BISHOP, Cert. R.S.I.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

ENTERPRISE PRINTING WORKS, DUNSTABLE.



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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

December, 1948.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dunstable.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1947, because in spite of all the difficulties of the year the state of health of the Borough remained good.

The shortage of houses, as you know, continues. Many people are still living in over-crowded and distressing conditions, and this is a great cause of mental ill-health, and in many cases of absenteeism from work.

During 1947, 407 babies were born in the Borough of Dunstable. This is the highest number of births yet recorded in any one year. The birth rate was 24.7.

Dunstable was particularly free from infectious diseases and during the outbreak of Infantile Paralysis in the country only one case was notified.

Clinics for the immunisation of school children against Diphtheria were maintained during the year, and the value of this treatment is now apparent.

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to the Town Clerk and to Mr. Bishop and his staff in the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(a) *Medical Officer of Health* (part-time).

H. A. A. Pargeter, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

(b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

A. Bishop. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

(c) *Additional Sanitary Inspector.*

H. Stew. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

(d) *Chief Clerk/Shorthand Typist.*

Mrs. D. F. Wordsworth.

(e) *Junior Clerk.*

Miss R. A. Fensome.

SECTION A—

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1. Vital Statistics.

Area of Borough, 2,028 acres.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General ... 16,490

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books as at 31st December, 1947 4,723

Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1947 £84,794

Sum produced by a penny rate taken at 31st March, 1947 £330

Number of new houses erected :

(a) Council : Permanent 57

(b) Private enterprise 34

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

The following tables gives extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year 1947 as furnished by the Registrar-General :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	... 407	203	204	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population, 24.7.
Legitimate	... 382	196	186	
Illegitimate	... 25	7	18	
Still Births	... 5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 11.9.
Legitimate	... 5	2	3	
Illegitimate	... —	—	—	
Deaths	... 145	60	85	Death rate per 1,000 of population, 8.8.

There were no deaths from diseases or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	3. Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	7.4
Legitimate	3. Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	7.9
Illegitimate	—. Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	27

2. Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General since 1933, when the Borough was extended to its present area, are as follows :—

1933 (mid-year)	...	...	...	...	10,293
1934	„	...	...	...	10,520
1935	„	...	...	...	11,330
1936	„	...	...	...	12,800
1937	„	...	...	...	13,450
1938	„	...	...	...	13,760
1939	„	...	...	...	14,720
1940	„	...	...	...	15,730
1941	„	...	...	...	18,040
1942	„	...	...	...	17,130
1943	„	...	...	...	16,450
1944	„	...	...	...	16,160
1945	„	...	...	...	15,680
1946	„	...	...	...	16,010
1947	„	...	...	...	16,490

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows :—

1942	...	...	...	...	...	6.1
1943	...	...	...	...	...	7.2
1944	...	...	...	...	...	8.4
1945	...	...	...	...	...	8.2
1946	...	...	...	...	...	9.3
1947	...	...	...	...	...	15.9

3 & 4. Birth & Death Rates.

Year	Population		Births	Birth Rate	Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Death rate for England & Wales
	Reg. Gen's Estimate	Local Estimate					
1939	14,720	16,817	231	17	155	10.5	—
1940	15,730	20,131	244	16	220	13.9	—
1941	18,040	18,789	274	15	181	10.0	—
1942	17,130	17,330	274	16	169	9.9	11.6
1943	16,450	16,069	266	16	156	9.5	12.1
1944	16,160	16,349	320	20	185	11.4	11.6
1945	15,680	16,831	294	19	164	10.5	11.4
1946	16,010	16,636	305	19	156	9.7	11.5
1947	16,490	16,781	407	25	145	8.8	12.0

Causes of Death.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics :—

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	60	85
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			...	...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			...	...	—	2	—
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	1	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis...			...	...	—	—	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) ; Uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	—	1	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum			...	...	—	3	1
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	3	—
16. Cancer of All Other Sites			...	...	—	10	7
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	2	—
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions			...	...	—	5	9
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	—	12	26
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System			...	...	—	—	4
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	5	4
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	5	—
23. Other Respiratory Diseases...			...	...	—	1	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum			...	...	—	1	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	—	1	—
26. Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	3	2
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	2	—
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis			...	...	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	—	1	—
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1	—
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents			...	...	—	—	—
35. Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	—	3	2
36. All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	—	5	17

6. Infant Mortality.

The following table shows Infantile Mortality from stated causes in weeks and month under one year of age.

	Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Prematurity ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Intussusception ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3

INFANT MORTALITY.

	Total Live Births	Infantile Mortality Rate—Dunstable	Infantile Mortality Rate—England and Wales
1936 ...	199	55	59
1937 ...	219	32	58
1938 ...	243	46	53
1939 ...	231	25	50
1940 ...	244	86	55
1941 ...	274	55	59
1942 ...	274	55	49
1943 ...	275	44	49
1944 ...	320	36	46
1945 ...	294	30	46
1946 ...	305	56	43
1947 ...	407	7	41

7. Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during 1947.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

	Borough of Dunstable	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident) Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin. County
Births					
Live Births ...	24.7	20.5*	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births ...	11.9	0.50*	0.62	0.54	0.49
Deaths					
All Causes ...	8.8	12.0*	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza ...	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ...	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Notifications					
Typhoid fever ...	—	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet fever ...	1.15	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough	0.36	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria ...	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas ...	0.12	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox ...	—	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles ...	1.09	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia ...	—	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	7.4	41x	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	2.5	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births :—

Notifications					
Puerperal fever	—	7.16	8.99	6.27	(1.21
Puerperal pyrexia					(6.94°

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

(There was no maternal mortality in Dunstable).

		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15—44
140 Abortion with sepsis ...	...	0.10	9
141 Abortion without sepsis ...	...	0.06	5
147 Puerperal infections ...	...	0.16	—
142—146} Other maternal causes		0.85	—
148—150}			

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

x Per 1,000 related births. ° Including Puerperal fever.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941—1947.

Year	Live Births		Still-Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths		Maternal Deaths		
	Estimated Population	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number
										Other	Total
1941	18,040	274	15.2	1.3	45.3	181	10.0	11	4	15	55
1942	17,130	274	16.0	10	35.2	169	9.9	8	7	15	55
1943	16,450	275	16.7	3	10.9	156	9.5	6	6	12	44
1944	16,160	320	19.8	8	24.0	185	11.4	8	4	12	36
1945	15,680	294	18.7	13	42.3	164	10.5	8	1	9	30
1946	16,010	305	19.0	8	25.6	156	9.7	12	5	17	56
1947	16,490	407	24.7	5	11.9	145	8.8	1	2	3	7

SECTION F—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis.

(a) *General Statistics* :—The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1947 together with the number admitted to hospital, and the deaths from these diseases :—

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths Registered
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever	19	17	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Measles	18	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—

The following table gives an analysis of the more important cases of Infectious Disease notified, according to age :—

Disease	Under 1 year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever ...	—	4	4	6	3	2	—	—	—	19
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

(b) No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

(c) *Scarlet Fever*.

Year	No. of Cases	Case-rate per 1,000	Case-rate for England and Wales
1947	19	1.15	1.37

The following table shows the incidence for the last ten years :—

1938	...	32	1943	...	65
1939	...	18	1944	...	40
1940	...	15	1945	...	32
1941	...	38	1946	...	31
1942	...	59	1947	...	19

(d) *Diphtheria* :—The following table shows the number of cases of Diphtheria which have occurred during the last ten years :—

1938	...	8	1943	...	9
1939	...	8	1944	...	2
1940	...	9	1945	...	0
1941	...	9	1946	...	2
1942	...	6	1947	...	2

There have been no deaths from the disease since the year 1937.

The case-rate for 1947 was 0.12 per 1,000, the case-rate for England and Wales being 0.13.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis :—During 1947 the following children completed immunisation treatment :—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
241	42	283

In addition 274 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (subsequent to full course).

Acute Poliomyelitis :—During the outbreak of this disease in the year 1947 only one case was diagnosed in the Borough. This case was not severe, but contracted some paralysis of the right lower limb.

2. Cancer.

The following table shows the prevalence of Cancer deaths during the last 10 years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>England and</i>	<i>Wales</i>
				<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
1938	6	8	14	1.02	1.66
1939	11	12	23	1.56	—
1940	14	17	31	1.97	—
1941	10	14	24	1.33	—
1942	17	13	30	1.75	—
1943	11	12	23	1.4	—
1944	13	15	28	1.73	—
1945	16	15	31	1.97	—
1946	16	17	33	2.06	—
1947	14	13	27	1.64	—

3. Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1947 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	2	—	—
15—	1	—	1	—	—	—
20—	2	2	—	—	1	—
25—	2	2	1	—	—	—
35—	2	1	—	—	—	—
45—	2	1	—	—	1	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	6	4	2	—	2	—	1

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary	...	0.12
Non-pulmonary	...	0.06

BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

DUNSTABLE.

10th August, 1948.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dunstable.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1947.

It is a matter of regret that conditions still remain such that it is impossible to make any organised attempt to deal with unfit properties by way of demolition or reconditioning.

Favourable consideration continues to be given to families living in over-crowded and under unfit conditions in the allocation of Council properties and, as a result, many serious cases have been alleviated during the year.

Considerable attention has been directed towards food and food handling. The introduction of Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations during the year while not giving all the power in dealing with the risk of contamination that may be desired, gives greater measure of control and will, it is hoped, be followed in the not too distant future by further Regulations setting out satisfactory fixed standards.

Further progress has been made in the provision of new and modern vehicles in connection with the Public Cleansing Service.

My thanks are again extended to the Public Health Committee and other members of the Corporation for the consideration and support given to me at all times ; to The Medical Officer of Health for his help and guidance and to the members of my staff for the assistance which has always been given to me.

Yours obediently,

A. BISHOP,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION C :—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water Supply.

The position with regard to the supply of water for domestic purposes remains as in previous reports. During the year under review approximately 70% of the water was obtained from deep wells within the Borough and the remaining 30%, approximately 81 million gallons, was purchased by the Dunstable Gas and Water Company under agreement from the Luton Water Company.

The following information is supplied to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

(a) *Water Shortages.*

There was no shortage of water during the year.

(b) *New works.*

There were no major improvements or additions at the Water Works.

Main laying for the new Housing Estate at Beecroft was continued to meet the new demand.

Early in 1948 the Gas and Water Company instituted a scheme whereby water pressures in the Tring Road Area are increased during the period of heavy demand by pumping direct into this area instead of feeding by gravitation from the water tower.

(c) *Risks of Contamination.*

There is very little risk of contamination by lead as lead is seldom used in the area.

The Water Company takes care to see that employees engaged in the wells are medically examined when necessary to ensure as far as possible against risk of contamination.

(d) *Number of Dwelling Houses supplied.*

With very few exceptions the whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough have a separate piped supply of water.

Results of the Examination of Water Samples.

22 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, two for chemical analysis and one for both chemical and bacteriological examination.

All samples were taken from widely separated points in the public supply and give uniformly satisfactory results.

Extracts from the reports are given hereunder :—

Bacteriological Samples.

Eleven samples were described in the following manner :—

“ This is a very satisfactory sample, it is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Eight samples were described in the following manner :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

One sample varied from this report only in that it was described as “ reasonably clear and bright in appearance.”

One sample taken from the Luton supply as it entered the Borough showed some signs of abnormality as the following report shows :—

“ This sample has opalescence and deposit but it is not excessively turbid and it is of the highest bacterial standard. Apart from the objection to the lack of clarity the water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

A repeat sample taken from the same source a few days later showed that this objection had been overcome, the further report being as follows :—

“ This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Chemical Samples.

The two samples submitted for chemical analysis, one taken early in the year and one in the autumn have exactly the same report, viz. :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality from the aspect of the chemical analysis. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Chemical and Bacteriological Sample.

Taken at the Pumping Station before chlorination :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.”

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

(a) Sewage Disposal.

The condition and capacity of the sewage disposal works is such that a major scheme for the reconstruction of the works is a necessity. During the year care has been taken to secure the best possible effluent and recent samples have shown the effluent to be within the Royal Commission Standard but owing to the small flow in the Ouzel Brook the position cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

Before a new sewage disposal works can be undertaken it is necessary to secure the most reliable information as to the future development of the town and it is hoped that with the coming into force of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, this information will be available at an early date.

(b) New Sewers and Sewerage.

During the year trunk surface water and soil sewers have been laid from the Watling Street via Brewershill Road to receive the drainage of the new Brewershill neighbourhood unit and sewers have been laid as necessary for the drainage of the Council's housing schemes thereon.

Flooding of cottages in both High Street South and High Street North occurs in time of very heavy rain and it is desirable that the construction of additional surface water sewers should be undertaken as soon as conditions permit to avoid these occurrences, which, although infrequent, are a source of danger to the health of the occupants of the houses.

The introduction of a system of regular quarterly gulley cleansing by mechanical means is a great improvement on the method of hand labour formerly employed.

2. Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams in the area.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

Owing to the continued shortage of materials and labour it has not yet been possible to call for separate closet accommodation

in the very small number of instances where this is not available. It should, at the same time, be borne in mind that some of the houses involved are in such a state that they will be condemned and demolished as unfit for human habitation as soon as circumstances permit.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Conditions with regard to labour and vehicles were somewhat better throughout the year. This resulted in a more regular and satisfactory collection which is now normally once in about eight days. Since the last report refuse is collected from approximately 300 additional premises.

The practice of supplying galvanised refuse bins to owners and occupiers at cost price plus a small charge for delivery has been continued and during the year 298 bins were supplied in this way.

A new Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yard vehicle has recently been delivered and delivery of a Lewin Compressing Refuse Collector is expected very shortly.

It is hoped that the introduction of these two vehicles will :—

- (a) Bring the service up-to-date as far as vehicles are concerned.
- (b) Allow for the disposal of old vehicles as surplus.
- (c) Help to stabilise the amount of labour required to meet the increased demand as the result of new houses being erected.

Refuse is still being deposited by the controlled tipping method on land at the foot of the Dunstable Downs. Conditions throughout the year have been satisfactory as covering material has been available in sufficient quantity and without undue delay.

Serious attention is now being given to alternative tipping sites.

(b) Salvage.

Salvage, apart from waste food, is collected at the same time as refuse. Special collections are made for business and other premises when the amount justifies it. Kitchen waste is collected separately and is sent to the concentrator plant at Luton. Normally the collection takes about three days per week but this is increased during the summer months so that no nuisance shall arise. The amount collected is steadily increasing and is on an average about the target figure of one ton per month per thousand of the population.

Towards the latter part of the year the Corporation put into operation an Incentive Bonus scheme for their employees for a trial period of twelve months and, as a result, the amount of salvage collected has shown a very marked increase. The increase is shown more particularly in the 1948 figures as only 3 months of the trial period fell in 1947.

The following table shows the amount of and value of salvage collected during the year :—

Material	Year 1946				Year 1947			
	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Paper	94	6	—	—	120	3	3	—
Heavy Iron	6	4	—	—	9	4	3	—
Tins	14	12	3	—	—	—	—	—
Rags	4	2	1	26	4	11	1	6
Bones	3	6	—	—	1	16	1	4
Brass, Aluminium, Lead, Copper	—	16	2	—	1	—	1	8
Bottles and Jars	4	5	—	—	10	11	3	—
Kitchen Waste	218	5	3	—	216	17	3	—
Value	£1,098 0 0				£1,387 10 8			

(c) *Cleansing of Cesspools.*

Very little trouble was experienced during the whole of the year. The plant owned by the Corporation for this work is completely out-of-date and unsatisfactory but the small number of cesspools remaining in the Borough (24) does not justify the purchase and maintenance of special plant. The Luton Rural District Council are kind enough to carry out the work with their modern plant at a reasonable charge.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The unsatisfactory conditions regarding inability to get work carried out continued throughout the year with the result that much of the older property will now require extensive repairs to make them anything like reasonably fit. It is hoped that the decision to raise the financial limit for work over which Civil Building Licences are required to £100 does in effect mean that the labour and material position has improved to the extent that some effort can be made to call for the more urgent repairs. To what extent the relationship of cost of major repairs or re-conditioning to existing rents will affect the position remains to be seen.

The following schedules give details as to the number of inspections made and the results accruing from the notices served :—

					1947
Inspection of premises where nuisances were found	...	...	...	...	435
Visits to property under notice or work in progress	...	...	...	...	735
Visits re inspection of Meat and Other Food	...	...	...	...	373
Visits re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	...	...	...	...	393
Inspections of offensive trade premises	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections of Fish and Chip Potato Shops	...	...	...	...	41
Inspections of Shops ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	229
Inspections of Schools ...	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	55
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	68

							1947
Inspections of Factories	With Mechanical Power	...	9	12	...	...
	Without do.	...	12		...	...	21
Inspections of Bakehouses	With Mechanical Power	...	6	2	...	...
	Without do.	...	2		...	...	8
Inspections of Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Inspections of Cafes' and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Visits re keeping of animals, accumulation of refuse, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Premises inspected where notifiable disease occurred	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Verminous conditions including rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Miscellaneous visits (unclassified)	...	...	...	...	...	...	183

							1947
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Informal and Verbal Notices given	...	...	...	...	...	...	324

							1947
Housing (Applications for New Accommodation)	...	...	...	...	...	...	420
Visits in connection with Squatters	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE.

							1947
(a) Structural Defects.							
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Chimneys repointed, etc., and pots renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
R.W. pipes refixed, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Window and frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Main walls repainted or cement rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Main walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses reconditioned throughout	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Ceilings replastered	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Walls replastered or matchboarding renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Dampness eradicated in walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Staircases repaired and/or handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Smoking flues remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms and staircases redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
(b) Foul Conditions.							
Obstructed drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Obstructed sewers referred to Borough Surveyor	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Houses cleansed and disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(c) Drainage, Paving and Water Supplies.							
Cesspool abolished and Drainage connected to Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Cold water supply tanks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional W.C.'s provided, W.C. structures repaired, cleansed or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
W.C. disconnected from Storm Water Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Detective joint between Flush Pipe and W.C. pan renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s provided with water supply and/or water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Gully drains repaired or dishing renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New surface water drain provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soil and vent pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Yard paving relaid or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sink and bath wastepipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Manholes and/or covers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Additional sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Offensive Trades :—Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936.

The only offensive trade carried on in the Borough is that of a dealer in rags. The premises are quite satisfactory and no nuisance has resulted.

The number of fish-frying premises remains at 8 and although these premises have not been brought within the scope of the section they are kept under control by virtue of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and are registered as food premises. Three of these premises have been considerably altered and improved during the year.

Factories Act, 1937.

Information as to the number of inspections made, Notices served and work carried out under the provisions of the above Act are set out below :—

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	14	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	19	—	—
TOTAL	82	48	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	2	2	—	—	—

OUTWORK—SECTIONS 110 AND 111.

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel	14	—	—	—	—	—
{ Making, etc. { Cleaning & washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	16	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	1	—	—	—	—	—

(iv) Shops and Offices.

(a) Sanitary Conditions, etc.

In connection with visits to shops, etc., the following improvements or additions have been effected :—

Additional sanitary accommodation provided in one case.

Additional washing facilities provided for employees in three instances.

6 shops and storerooms cleansed and 6 redecorated.

Walls, ceilings and floors repaired in 10 cases.

(b) Early Closing and Employment of Young Persons.

During the course of many visits which arise as a result of food inspection, sanitary accommodation, and Shops Act duties, no infringements of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938 came to notice.

A few minor infringements of the Sunday Trading and Shop Hours Act were discovered but these did not justify more than a verbal warning.

(v) Camping Sites.

Very little trouble is now experienced in connection with caravans, etc. There is no licensed camping ground in the area.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

The majority of industries in the borough are such that nuisance from smoke only arises at very infrequent intervals. The only complaints dealt with during the year concerned the emission of black smoke from a laundry chimney but this was mainly due to poor quality fuel.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

Three samples of water were submitted during the year and the results are given below. One of the pools is situated at the Dunstable Grammar School and is used by the scholars and the other is privately owned and used by the public. In both cases satisfactory plant to ensure filtration and chlorination of the water is provided.

1. *Dunstable Grammar School Pool, 16-7-1947.*

“ Fairly satisfactory.” This was rectified after additional chlorination.

2. *Dunstable Grammar School Pool, 6-8-1947.*

Chemical and Bacteriological examination.

“ The chemical examination shows a rather high albumenoid nitrogen figure but the bacteriological examination shows that the water has been efficiently chlorinated and is safe for bathing purposes.”

3. *Dunstable Pool, California Hill, 6-8-1947.*

“ The combined results show that this water is safe for bathing purposes.”

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs is set out below in the manner required by Ministry of Health Circular 1728.

					1947
(a) Number of Council Houses	(1)	Infested ...	...	...	2
	(2)	Disinfested	...	...	2
(b) Number of other Houses	(1)	Infested ...	...	...	4
	(2)	Disinfested	...	...	4

In each case disinfection was carried out by spraying with insecticide and the work was done by Corporation employees.

(ix) Rat Destruction.

Although the rat problem is not serious in the Borough infestations of a more or less minor character continually arise and these are dealt with by the Inspectors. As a result of injury the services of the part-time operator were not available for the whole of the year. No routine examination of surface properties or sewers was carried out. This is not satisfactory and the Corporation have now decided to appoint a Rodent Officer who will spend at least half of his time at this work.

4. Schools.

A number of visits were paid to schools in connection with various matters such as sampling of water, inspection of food at canteens, enquiries regarding suspected food poisoning, infectious diseases, sampling of school milk, etc.

A number of inspections have also been made in connection with sanitary accommodation.

5. Cinemas.

There is only one cinema in the Borough.

A number of visits were made and conditions with respect to sanitary accommodation, restaurant and kitchen facilities were found to be satisfactory.

SECTION D :—

HOUSING.

(a) *Unfit Properties and Repairs.*

No organised housing inspections were carried out during the year. Neither was it possible having regard to the National economy position and the need for conserving material and labour for the erection of new houses to carry out any organised major repair work. As previously mentioned in this Report it is hoped that the decision to raise the limit of the cost of repairs which can be carried out without licence to £100 is an indication that the labour and material position is improved to the extent that some action may shortly be possible to deal with repairs to property on an organised basis instead of continuing to "make do and mend" on a temporary basis as has been the case for the past ten years. This position, necessary as we know it to have been, has resulted in much of the older property getting into such a state, that it is going to be difficult to decide whether it can be repaired at a reasonable cost having regard to the present high costs of labour, etc., and the amount of work done to be, without taking into consideration the introduction of modern amenities such as baths, internal sanitary accommodation, proper food cooking and storage facilities, etc., in relation to the income returned from the properties concerned.

As an indication of the problem a recent preliminary survey in the St. Mary's Street/Chapel Walk area showed that of 140 houses, made up of 134 working class type houses and 6 others, at least 121 of the working class houses were sub-standard and almost all of them incapable of being brought up to a reasonable standard with modern amenities at anything like a reasonable cost.

There are other areas which fall into the same category and this will give some measure of the problem to be faced in the not too distant future.

(b) *New Housing.*

Up to the present time the following accommodation has been made available since the War for re-housing by the Corporation as a result of new erections, adaptations, etc. :—

- 50 pre-fab Bungalows at Downside Estate, Dunstable.
- 150 permanent houses at Beecroft Estate, Dunstable.
- 23 ex-army huts at First Avenue, Dunstable.
- 2 huts rear of Watling House, Dunstable.
- 14 flats or houses in requisitioned properties.

Altogether contracts for 216 houses have been entered into on the Beecroft Estate of which 198 had either been completed or commenced at the end of July. Tenders are now being considered for the erection of 32 flats for aged persons.

Licences have been issued by the Corporation for the erection of 86 houses by private enterprise and of these 84 have been completed and 2 are in course of erection.

(c) *Overcrowding and Re-housing.*

Although the Corporation have a Points Scheme in connection with allocation of housing accommodation, due regard is had to the question of need apart from points and a large percentage of lettings have been from overcrowded and/or unsatisfactory houses for which points had been awarded by the Public Health Department.

A revision of the list of applications for Council houses was made in February and March, 1948, as a result of which the number of applicants was reduced from 1,273 to 672. The list of applicants had risen to 847 at the end of June, 1948.

SECTION E :—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.

(a) *Registration.*

The state of the registers at the end of 1947 was as follows :—

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-1938.

The following supplementary licences were granted during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	7
Pasteurised	...	1

(c) Inspections.

55 visits were paid to premises where milk is stored or sold.

(d) Sampling.

During the year 33 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 14 gave an unsatisfactory methylene blue test the time taken to decolourise the sample ranging from half an hour to $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Of the 26 samples submitted to the coliform test 8 gave an unsatisfactory result. The necessary action was taken in each case where unsatisfactory results were obtained and further samples taken as required. This generally results in an improvement.

The results of the examination of the samples are given hereunder :—

NUMBER OF SAMPLE	RESULT OF METHYLENE BLUE TEST		RESULT OF COLIFORM TEST	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory Stating Period taken to decolourise	Satisfactory	B. Coli present in 1/100th m.l. in 1, 2 or 3 tubes.
1	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
2	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
3	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
4	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
5	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
6	No.	4½ hours.	Yes.	1 tube.
7	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
8	No.	1 hour.	No.	2 tubes.
9	No.	2 hours.	Yes.	—
10	Yes.	—	Yes.	1 tube.
11	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
12	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
13	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
14	No.	½ hour.	Not carried out.	—
15	No.	½ hour.	Not carried out.	—
16	No.	½ hour.	Not carried out.	—
17	No.	½ hour.	Not carried out.	—
18	No.	2½ hours.	No.	3 tubes.
19	No.	½ hour.	No.	3 tubes.
20	No.	4 hours.	No.	3 tubes.
21	No.	4½ hours.	No.	3 tubes.
22	No.	4½ hours.	No.	3 tubes.
23	No.	1½ hours.	Yes.	—
24	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
25	No.	4½ hours.	Yes.	—
26	Yes.	—	No.	2 tubes.
27	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
28	Yes.	—	Not carried out.	—
29	Yes.	—	Not carried out.	—
30	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
31	Yes.	—	Yes.	—
32	Yes.	—	No.	2 tubes.
33	Yes.	—	Not carried out.	—

(e) *Graded Milk.*

Included in the foregoing table are the results of 11 samples of Pasteurised milk which were also submitted to the Phosphatase Test, the results are given herewith :—

NUMBER OF SAMPLE ON PREVIOUS TABLE	RESULT OF METHYLENE BLUE TEST	RESULT OF COLIFORM TEST	RESULT OF PHOSPHATASE TEST
1	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
3	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
7	Satisfactory	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
13	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.
14	Unsatisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.
15	Unsatisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.
16	Unsatisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.
17	Unsatisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.
28	Satisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.
29	Satisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.
33	Satisfactory.	Not carried out.	Satisfactory.

The necessary action was taken to improve the standard of the supplies from which the unsatisfactory samples Nos. 3, 14 to 17 were taken with evident success. Repeat samples were taken as follows : Sample No. 28 from the same source as Nos. 14 and 15, Sample No. 29 from the same source as No. 16 and Sample No. 33 from the same source as No. 17.

(f) *School Milk.*

Samples numbered as follows were taken from the school supplies :—No. 2, No. 7, No. 8, No. 17, No. 27, and No. 33.

Nos. 8 and 17 were both unsatisfactory results but repeat samples No. 27 and No. 33 from the same sources showed the necessary return to the normal satisfactory standard.

Samples No. 2 and No. 7 were also submitted for a complete examination for the presence of Tubercl Bacilli with negative results.

(g) *Ice Cream Samples, 1947.*

26 samples were submitted during the year, the results of the examinations are shown in the attached table. In the case of sample C.1 the retailer concerned discontinued the manufacture and sale of ice cream altogether. In the case of samples D.1 and 2 this was a cold mix, the permit was surrendered and complete pasteurised cold mix introduced. In the case of samples G.1 and 2 the sale and manufacture was discontinued. The cause of the trouble in so far as samples H.1, 2 and 3 are concerned was found to be inadequate sterilisation of plant. In the case of samples I.1 to 9 considerable trouble was necessary before a satisfactory standard could be obtained including the taking of three samples of ingredients which were found to be satisfactory. Improvement was, however, effected after careful control of sterilisation of equipment.

In dealing with the results of the examinations of samples of ice cream the suggested provisional standard is that 50% of the samples from each individual manufacturer, etc., should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grade 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none in Grade 4. Of the 26 samples submitted 6 fell into Grade 1, 6 into Grade 2, 5 into Grade 3 and 9 into Grade 4.

No. and Identity of Sample	Inside the Borough	Outside the Borough	Methylene Blue Decolourised in hours	B. Coli present in tubes	Faecal B. Coli present in tubes	Plate count per m.l.	Provisional Grading
A.1.	Yes.	—	½	0	—	—	3
A.2	Yes.	—	4½	3	0	35,000	1
B.1.	Yes.	—	4½	0	0	100,000	1
C.1.	—	Yes.	0	3	0	Uncountable.	4
D.1.	Yes.	—	3	1	—	—	2
D.2.	Yes.	—	0	3	0	500,000	4
E.1.	Yes.	—	0	1	—	—	4
E.2.	Yes.	—	1½	0	0	4,000	3
F.1.	—	Yes.	0	3	—	—	4
F.2.	—	Yes.	4½	0	0	2,000	1
F.3.	—	Yes.	2½	3	0	10,000	2
G.1.	Yes.	—	1	3	3	30,000	3
G.2.	Yes.	—	0	3	3	76,000	4
H.1.	Yes.	—	0	0	—	—	4
H.2.	Yes.	—	4½	0	0	2,500	1
H.3.	Yes.	—	2½	3	0	1,000	2
I.1.	Yes.	—	2	1	—	—	3
I.2.	Yes.	—	½	3	—	—	3
I.3.	Yes.	—	0	3	0	Uncountable.	4
I.4.	Yes.	—	0	3	3	Uncountable.	4
I.5.	Yes.	—	0	3	3	800,000	4
I.6.	Yes.	—	3	1	1	5,500	2
I.7.	Yes.	—	3	0	0	Uncountable.	2
I.8.	Yes.	—	over 4½	0	0	650,000	1
I.9.	Yes.	—	3½	0	0	5,000	2
J.1.	Yes.	—	4½	0	0	—	1

2. Meat and Other Foods.

(a) Slaughterhouses.

There has been no change in connection with this matter. There is only one registered slaughterhouse in the Borough. This is a modern erection and has reasonably good facilities. It still continues to be used as a crown-controlled slaughterhouse.

The following table shows the carcasses slaughtered and inspected and the percentage of animals either wholly condemned or some part of which was condemned :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle ex- cluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	1,138	334	333	1,492	76
Number Inspected ...	1,138	334	333	1,492	76
<i>All diseases except Tuber- culosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	4	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	341	80	2	32	9
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tuber- culosis	30.3	25.15	.9	2.14	11.84
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	17	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	150	109	1	—	1. —
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	13.53	37.7	.9	—	1.3

Tuberculosis in Calves.

Two calves were found to be affected with congenital tuberculosis. Information was passed to the Animal Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in both cases.

Table showing monthly total of animals slaughtered and inspected.

Month	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Total
1947						
January ...	61	58	27	5	213	364
February ...	46	26	12	6	85	175
March ...	41	40	22	4	94	201
April ...	102	17	11	4	41	175
May ...	94	23	11	3	89	220
June ...	76	11	10	3	—	100
July ...	81	8	18	11	20	138
August ...	91	20	7	5	59	182
September ...	149	32	36	2	240	459
October ...	156	44	51	10	233	494
November ...	150	36	83	3	272	544
December ...	91	19	45	20	146	321
TOTALS	1,138	334	333	76	1,492	3,373

Monthly statement and yearly total of meat from various animals condemned as unfit for human consumption at Crown Controlled Slaughterhouse :—

	Bovine	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total lbs.
1947					
January ...	2,862	—	90	—	2,952
February ...	897	—	4	—	901
March ...	893	8	5	304	1,210
April ...	3,910	56	—	—	3,966
May ...	2,075	69	3	8	2,155
June ...	1,817	115	—	12	1,944
July ...	3,394	—	3	51	3,448
August ...	2,925	—	37	23	2,985
September ...	3,723	—	9	117	3,849
October ...	5,741	—	19	201	5,961
November ...	5,431	—	20	—	5,451
December ...	3,395	2	21	—	3,418
TOTALS	37,063	250	211	716	38,240

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There is no Meat Marking Scheme in operation in accordance with Part III. of the above regulations. No offence was discovered during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of licences to act as slaughtermen in force and expiring at the end of 1947 was 16. There are now eleven licences in force in the area but of these only 6 operate in the Borough.

(b) Meat and Food other than in Slaughterhouse.

The number of visits paid to premises where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale was 313.

The undermentioned table shows the amount and variety of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed or utilised for animal feeding stuffs as being unfit for human consumption.

Article	Tins or Pkts.	lbs.	Article	Tins or Pkts.	lbs.
Meat	60	—	Corned Beef ...	—	682
Milk	183	—	Savoury Ducks, etc.	—	33
M. and V. Ration ...	8	—	Bacon	—	73
Fish and Fish Cakes	132	609	Cheese	—	15½
Baked Beans	25	—	Chickens (Number)	10	—
Sausages and Sausage meat	6	78	Sausage Rusks ...	—	224
Marmalade	5	—	Spaghetti ...	—	25
Jam	20	—	Cake	—	18
Syrup	2	—	Boiled Sweets ...	—	2½
Fruit	26	—	Barley	—	112
Vegetables	79	—	Prunes	—	100
Tomatoes	8	—	Wheatflakes and Breakfast Cereals	29	—
Soup	4	—	Dates	44	—
Lime Juice	25	—			

Registration of Premises where Food is manufactured for Sale. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the end of the year the following premises were registered under the provision of Section 14 of the above Act :—

Preparation of Fish and Potatoes	...	7
Manufacture of Sausages ... ... ...	...	16
Preparation and/or Sale of Cooked Meat	...	25
Preparation of Meat Pies ... ... ...	...	2
Manufacture or Sale of Ice Cream	...	17

(d) Adulteration of Food, etc.

No samples were submitted for examination. The adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are administered by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(e) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*

Apart from those dealt with under Milk and Ice Cream sections in the report a sample of prunes from a canteen was submitted for bacteriological examination but the report was negative.

Rainfall.

The following figures as to Rainfall in the Borough over the last ten years are included in the Report for record purposes :—

1938	...	...	...	...	...	20.85	inches.
1939	...	...	...	...	...	31.19	"
1940	...	...	...	...	...	27.23	"
1941	...	...	...	...	...	24.31	"
1942	...	...	...	...	...	21.34	"
1943	...	...	...	...	...	19.37	"
1944	...	...	...	...	...	20.68	"
1945	...	...	...	...	...	21.24	"
1946	...	...	...	...	...	27.99	"
1947	...	...	...	...	...	20.21	"

